

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-20

DOT-00 EA-11 L-03 FMC-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /075 W

----- 017117

R 091209Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI U A E

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : ETRN, BA

SUBJECT : JOINT SHIPPING COMPANY FORMED BY GULF STATES

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK TOLD CHARGE APRIL 9 THAT DURING RECENT VISIT TO BAHRAIN BY QATAR FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTERS OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE U.A.E. AND OMAN, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO SET UP THE GULF MARITIME COMPANY, TO BE JOINTLY OWNED BY THE FOUR COUNTRIES. EACH COUNTRY WILL CONTRIBUTE TWO AND A HALF MILLION STERLING TO GET NEW COMPANY LAUNCHED. CARGO SHIPS WILL BE PURCHASED TO TRANSPORT TO THE FOUR OWNERS SUCH BASIC COMMODITIES AS RICE, MEAT, CEMENT AND TIMBER.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID SMALL GULF COUNTRIES HAD HERETOFORE BEEN AT A DISADVANTAGE IN ATTAINING COMMODITIES. WHEN SUPPLIES OF RICE HAD BEEN LOCATED IN, SAY, SINGAPORE, SHIPPING HAD OFTEN BEEN DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO LOCATE WHILE WHEN SHIPPING WAS AVAILABLE, COMMODITIES COULD NOT BE HAD. THE RESULT WAS HIGHER PRICES FOR CONSUMERS IN FOUR COUNTRIES.

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THE EXPECTATION WAS THAT WITH ITS OWN SHIPPING LINE, GULF

COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND LOWER PRICES.

3. MOHAMMAD SAID THERE HAD LONG BEEN A QUESTION OF WHETHER BAHRAIN,
QATAR, THE U.E. AND OMAN WOULD GO IN WITH KUWAIT ON THE SHIPPING
PROJECT. BUT NOW THE FOUR HAD DECIDED TO GO AHEAD ON THEIR OWN.
KUWAIT WAS BEING INFORMED BEFORE FINAL AGREEMENT IS RATIFIED
BY FOUR COUNTRIES.
KILLGORE

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NNN

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